

Senate Joint Resolution No. 10

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 96

Senate Joint Resolution No. 10—Relative to Medicare prescription drug coverage.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 11, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 10, Soto. Medicare prescription drug coverage.

This measure would request the United States Congress to enact outpatient prescription drug coverage as part of the federal Medicare program.

WHEREAS, The use of prescription drugs improves the quality of care and helps patients live healthier, longer, and more productive lives while keeping them out of more costly acute care settings in the long term; and

WHEREAS, The increased use of new and improved prescription drugs has changed the delivery of health care in the United States since Medicare was enacted, and while two-thirds of the Medicare population has some form of prescription drug coverage, one-third of Medicare beneficiaries have no coverage at all; and

WHEREAS, Because Congress did not enact a drug benefit when it created the Medicare program, the program inadequately provides the elderly and disabled with the most appropriate drug therapies, as well as prevents the delivery of quality health care at an affordable cost; and

WHEREAS, In implementing state programs to assist the Medicare population, state budgetary constraints often result in requirements to restrict and limit a patient's access to needed prescription drugs; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature requests the United States Congress to enact outpatient prescription drug coverage as part of the federal Medicare program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

O

